

**[57] Abstract**

5     The invention relates to a method and apparatus for scheduling  
transmission link bandwidth between packet-switched data  
flows so that a desired CoS (Class of Service) is provided with  
an ability to utilize the instantaneously available bandwidth of a  
data transmission network while simultaneously offering a  
10    guaranteed minimum data rate (Guaranteed Data Rate and Best  
Effort) without compromising the operation of such classes that  
have no guaranteed lower bound of data rate, but instead, have  
the service implemented by the utilization of the instantaneously  
available bandwidth (Best Effort). The invention is based  
15    utilizing in the scheduler control, not only the information  
indicating the class of service, but also the information  
indicating the subgroup inside a class of service (e.g., drop  
precedence). The information indicating the subgroup is  
conventionally utilized only for congestion control purposes.

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(Fig. 4)